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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,663	10/17/2001	Masato Nogawa	30033.0004	7649

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EXAMINER

PETERSON, KENNETH E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/982,663

Applicant(s)

NOGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth E Peterson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 9-54 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 9,10,15, drawn to a cutter having a chuck mechanism and a height measurer.
- II. Claims 11-14 and 16-19, drawn to a cutter having a chuck mechanism, a receiving station and a height measurer.
- III. Claims 20-32, drawn to a cutter having a chuck mechanism and a receiving station.
- IV. Claims 33-40, drawn to a cutter having a central processing unit, a chuck mechanism and a receiving station.
- V. Claims 41-49, drawn to a method of trimming a book bundle.
- VI. Claims 50 and 51, drawn to a cutter having a central processing unit and a receiving station.
- VII. Claims 52-54, drawn to a cutter having a central processing unit, a receiving station and a height measurer.

2. Inventions of groups I,III and VI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. For example, the cutter having a chuck mechanism and a height measurer of group I could be employed without the receiving station of group III, and conversely, the cutter having a chuck mechanism and a receiving station of group III could be used without the height measurer of group I. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

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3. Inventions of groups II, IV and VII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. For example, the cutter having a chuck mechanism, receiving station and a height measurer of group II could be employed without the central processing unit of group IV, and conversely, the cutter having a central processing unit, chuck mechanism and a receiving station of group IV could be used without the height measurer of group II. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

4. Inventions of group II and groups I, III, VI are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if there is evidence that the combination does not rely on the subcombination for patentability. See MPEP 806.05 (c), example 3. For example, group III is evidence that the combination of group II does not rely on the height measurer of group I for patentability, and conversely, Group I is evidence that the combination of group II does not rely on the receiving station of group III for patentability.

5. Inventions of group IV and groups I, III and VI are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if there is evidence that the combination does not rely on the subcombination for patentability. See MPEP 806.05 (c), example 3. For example, group III is evidence that the combination of group IV does not rely on the central processing unit of group VI for patentability, and conversely,

Group VI is evidence that the combination of group IV does not rely on the chuck mechanism of group III for patentability.

6. Inventions of group VII and groups I,III and VI are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if there is evidence that the combination does not rely on the subcombination for patentability. See MPEP 806.05 (c), example 3. For example, group I is evidence that the combination of group VII does not rely on the central processing unit of group VI for patentability, and conversely, Group VI is evidence that the combination of group VII does not rely on the chuck mechanism of group III for patentability.

7. Inventions of group V and groups I-IV,VI,VII are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the apparatus could be employed to cut things other than books, such as plastic sheets.

8. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

9. There is an excessive burden on the office to examine all of these inventions together, as shown by their search. See MPEP 808.02(C). For example, the search for group I is in class class 83, subclass 358 along with text searching for height measuring. The search for group III would not be as above, but instead would be in class 198 for the receiving conveyor. Neither the search for group I alone or group III alone would be sufficient for group II. The other groups have similarly divergent searches.

10. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

11. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).


12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ken Peterson whose telephone number is 703-308-2186. Effective on about 16 November 04, the phone number will change to 571-272-

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4512. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday between 7am and 4pm.

In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to 703-872-9306. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 703-308-1082. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

kp
October 1, 2004



KENNETH E. PETERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER